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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - The Winton Club runs gift shop at hospital

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Club members operate the Winchester Hospital gift shop (left to right: Lauri Travia, Sandy Richardson, Ellen Newman, Meg Pickelhaupt. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

If you've ever been a patient or visitor at Winchester Hospital, yo probably run into a Winton Club volunteer. They staff the gift sho

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give every newborn a book.

Meg Pickelhaupt helps the club raise money, which they use to run A Caring Place at 620 Washington St., among other things. And you can help them, too, in different ways.

“A Caring Place,” Pickelhaupt explains, “is a boutique where those suffering from cancer can buy wigs, mastectomy bras, prostheses, and other items. We also help financially support patients whose insurance won’t pay for them.

“The boutique allows women in particular to take control of the disease — they can choose a wig, a scarf, or a hat — whatever helps them deal with hair loss from cancer treatments,” she concluded.

The boutique has a consultant to help clients decide what suits them.

“Two years ago, Winton Club paid for a scalp cooling device called Paxman,” says Pickelhaupt. “It lets patients keep their hair by cooling the hair roots during chemotherapy treatments. All told, the club has raised half a million dollars for the 620 Washington St. facility.

Pickelhaupt is the chair of the club’s major fundraising event Casino Night, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Woburn Country Club. She hopes to raise $50,000 that night. Attending the event is a good way to be a helper. Pickelhaupt also encourages folks to help the second way: by joining Winton Club.

The funds may support $20,000 for grants, $50,000 yearly for rental of the scalp cooling devices, and $8,000 for the Family Literacy Program for baby books, which the publisher gives them at cost. This year the funds are targeted across A Caring Place and the Special Care Nursery Can

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If you are at Winchester Hospital, check out the gift shop run by the Winton Club. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER HOSPITAL

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“Both my kids got the same book,” Pickelhaupt says, “‘The Little Engine That Could.’

“The books used to be provided by the Friends of Winchester Hospital — ‘the pink ladies’— but that group disbanded during COVID and we took it over,” she adds. “About 2,600 babies a year are born at the hospital.”

Pickelhaupt was born and raised in Winchester and when she moved back as an adult, she was looking for ways to reconnect.

“I liked the idea of a gift shop because I used to work at Bloomingdale’s and Filene’s,” she says. “I spent the first year as a buyer for the shop.”

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Winton Club President Gabrielle Stott says, “The club has been around for over 100 years, supporting Winchester Hospital since before there was a hospital! The talented folks who produced the Winton Club are now running Casino Night ”

Stott says the club has two equal goals: 1. Do Good and 2. Have Fun.

“Casino Night is a good way to shake off the winter blues and help support our terrific community hospital,” she says.

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Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alis lived in town for about fou already immersed in helping people. And

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Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

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High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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